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CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device for lifting/manipulating landscaping and other like materials, comprising:

a first arm having an upper portion, a pivot portion and a lower portion, said upper portion of said first arm and said lower portion of said first arm extending along a common plane;

a second arm having an upper portion, a pivot portion and a lower portion, said pivot portion of said first arm pivotally connected to said pivot portion of said second arm, said upper portion of said second arm and said lower portion of said second arm extending along said common plane;

wherein at least one of said pivot portion of said first arm and said pivot portion of said second arm is offset from said common plane an amount selected such that, ~~whereby~~ said upper portion and said lower portion of said first arm ~~and extend along a common plane with~~ said upper portion and said lower portion of said second arm extend along said common plane.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of said upper portion of said first arm follows a first radius of curvature having a center on an exterior side of said first arm.

3. (Original) The device of claim 2 wherein at least a portion of said lower portion of said first arm follows a second radius of curvature having a center on an interior side of said first arm.

4. (Original) The device of claim 3 wherein at least a portion of said upper portion of said second arm follows a third radius of curvature having a center on an exterior side of said second

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arm and at least a portion of said lower portion of said second arm follows a fourth radius of curvature having a center on an interior side of said second arm.

5. (Original) The device of claim 4 wherein said first arm is pivotally connected to said second arm by a pivot element; and

wherein said first arm transitions between said first radius of curvature and said second radius of curvature in approximate alignment with said pivot element.

6. (Original) The device of claim 1 further comprising a first jaw affixed to said first arm, said jaw extending substantially perpendicularly to a longitudinal extent of said first arm.

7. (Original) The device of claim 6 wherein said jaw includes a plurality of teeth.

8. (Original) The device of claim 7 wherein said plurality of teeth are oriented along a radius of curvature having a center on an interior side of said first arm.

9. (Original) The device of claim 8 wherein said jaw is manufactured from a segment of angle iron having a first leg and a second leg, said plurality of teeth being defined in said first leg.

10. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 9 wherein said arms ~~are~~^{are of} moveable between a first fully open position and a second closed position; and

wherein said jaw is mounted to said first arm such that said first leg of said first jaw extends along a substantially horizontal plane when said arms are in said first fully open position.

11. (Original) The device of claim 10 further comprising a pair of reinforcing plates interconnected between said first jaw and said first arm, said reinforcing plates being disposed on opposite sides of said first arm.

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12. (Original) The device of claim 11 wherein said reinforcing plates extend between said second leg and said first arm.

13. (Original) The device of claim 1 further comprising a handle mounted to said first arm.

14. (Currently Amended) A device for lifting and manipulating landscaping and other like materials, comprising:

a first arm having an upper portion and a lower portion;

a second arm having an upper portion and a lower portion;

a pivot joint pivotally interconnecting said first arm and said second arm, said pivot joint configured such that said upper portion and said lower portion of said first arm and said upper portion and said lower portion of said second arm extend through a common plane;

a lift ring;

a first shackle interconnecting said first arm to said lift ring; and

a second shackle interconnecting said second arm to said lift ring.

15. (Original) The device of claim 14 further comprising a first jaw affixed to said first arm, said first jaw extending substantially perpendicularly to a longitudinal extent of said first arm; and

a second jaw affixed to said second arm, said second jaw extending substantially perpendicularly to a longitudinal extent of said second arm.

16. (Original) The device of claim 15 wherein said jaw includes a plurality of teeth oriented along a curve.

17. (Original) The device of claim 16 wherein said jaw is manufactured from a segment of angle iron having a first leg and a second leg, said plurality of teeth being defined in said first leg.

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18. (Original) The device of claim 17 wherein said arms are moveable between a first fully open position and a second closed position; and

wherein said first jaw and said second jaw are mounted to said first arm and said second arm such that said first leg of said first jaw and said first leg of said second jaw extend along a substantially horizontal plane when said arms are in said first fully open position.

19. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 14 wherein each of said first arm and said second arm are somewhat "S"-shaped ~~with said~~^{having} a lower portion extending along a radius of curvature opening inwardly and ~~said~~^a upper portion extending along a radius of curvature opening outwardly.

20. (Original) The device of claim 19 further comprising a first handle mounted to said lower portion of said first arm and a second handle mounted to said lower portion of said second arm.

21. (Original) The device of claim 14 wherein said first arm includes an offset portion and second arm includes an offset portion; and

wherein said pivot joint includes a pivot pin interconnecting said offset portion of said first arm with said offset portion of said second arm.